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# LOEP UPDATE

Baton Rouge, La



June 1999 Issue

Terry Thompson

## HURRICANE "CHUCK" STORMS ONTO LOUISIANA COAST

Participants from the SE Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Task Force and the LOEP gathered at the Department of Natural Resources building in Baton Rouge on June 2, 1999, to prepare for the impending disasters that a mock Hurricane "Chuck" could bring to this state. The exercise was designed to test state and local response and readiness in the event of a natural disaster.

Each parish OEP Director was given an opportunity to present problems their parishes would have encountered and what state support would be needed.



State EOC members and Parish Directors discuss readiness plans

Weather data gathered from recent Hurricane Georges (which narrowly missed New Orleans, LA) was used as the basis for "Chuck". The SE Task Force presented their mass evacuation strategy and disaster contingency plans to the committee. Exit routes were heavily discussed; voicing concerns that roadway construction, repairs and traffic signals would cause severe congestion and increase dangerous driving conditions.

Frank Revitte, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with The National Weather Service, provided a briefing to exercise participants on the effects of the storm. Hurricane force winds in excess of 95 mph with gusts up to 115-120 mph would have caused severe damage to vehicles, mobile homes and poorly constructed buildings. New Orleans would have received 15-20 inches of rain and areas outside the levee system would have been flooded.

### \$5(1285(\$14?)

- ♦ Review Insurance Policies
- ♦ Gather Hurricane Supplies
- ♦ Know Your Evacuation Route
- ♦ Hurricane Proof Your Home
- ♦ Monitor NOAA Broadcasts
- ♦ Prepare To Evacuate
- ♦ Don't Forget Your Pets

## GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS JUNE HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH

The month of June has been proclaimed HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS MONTH. Governor Foster and his administration continue to encourage the citizens of Louisiana to support hurricane safety measures and develop a hurricane readiness plan for themselves and their families. State and local agencies, The National Weather Service, Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness and emergency personnel are prepared to work with our citizens and the news media to inform the public of hurricane safety and preparedness.

## LOEP TRAINING CALENDAR THROUGH END OF FY99

(REVISED JUNE 11, 1999)

<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Emergency Planning	June 14-17	Hotel Acadiana – Lafayette
SW TF Hurricane Exercise	July 7	Mineral Board Room – LOEP
Mass Fatalities Incident Response	July 13-16	Holiday Inn – Sulphur
Leadership & Influence/Decision Making & Problem Solving	July 27-30	Holiday Inn – Bossier City (Please note date change)
Hurricane Planning	Aug 2-3	TBA
Exercise Design & Evaluation	Aug 16-20	Holiday Inn - Sulphur
Effective Communications	Aug 31-Sept 3	Radisson Hotel – Baton Rouge
LOEP Fall Workshop	Sept 14-15	TBA
Region VI HazMat Conference	Sept 20-24	Radisson Hotel – Baton Rouge

## ARE YOU Y2K COMPLIANT?

Agencies statewide have been hard at work preparing their computer information systems for Y2K compliance. There has been no concrete information to indicate that any system will fail catastrophically. Most utility companies, the banking industry, state and federal governments feel their systems will be prepared and operating come January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000. Agencies can download YMARK 2000, a Y2K hardware test utility, at no cost from the NSTL web-site located at:

<http://www.nstl.com>

**"The LOEP staff focuses on customer service and recognizes that there are really only two jobs here. We either serve our customers directly or we serve someone who does. With Emergency Preparedness, protecting the lives and property of our customers are our primary goal. We provide the best there is in training, support and logistics to all of Louisiana's Customer Service personnel."**

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## LOEP UPDATE – JUNE 1999 ISSUE

### LOEP OPERATIONS CENTER DIVISION

**Y2K Compliance** – All four critical systems at LOEP are in Y2K compliance. These include the phone system, the UPS (power) system, the emergency management software (EM2000) system and the 800 MHz radio system.

**Agency Computer Network** – The upgrade activities for the agency computer network is approximately 50% complete. New PCs are installed in the EOC and Overwatch to improve performance. The agency e-mail system and final conversion to the new servers is expected during early June.

**800 MHz System** – The new Motorola radios to replace the units at the Parishes arrived this month. Twenty-four units were programmed by the State Police and returned to LOEP on May 28 for installation at the Parishes. Leah Lang is the project manager for this replacement project.

**SKYCELL** – Final talk group and airtime negotiations with AMSC and State Purchasing was completed during the final week in May. Delivery of the first units is expected by June 7. Paul Garland is the project manager.

### LOEP PLANS, TRAINING AND EXERCISES DIVISION

**Plans** – The Chief Planner participated in the Nursing Home Conference in Baton Rouge, delivering a talk on the progress of emergency planning since Hurricane Georges. Evacuation procedures were a key topic. The Junior Planner sent draft materials to the following non-SLA Parishes for EOP update: LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, and Winn. The completed Lincoln Parish EOP was delivered. The Plans Branch will continue to collect and analyze information about Special Needs problems.

**Training** – The State Training Officer and the PIO completed an extension of the disaster declaration for St. Landry Parish and the Governor's Proclamation for Hurricane Preparedness Month. The Hurricane Planning course has been rescheduled for August 2-3. The Debris Management and Environmental Planning course is being rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. New date TBA.

**Exercises** – The Exercise Officer completed details for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> LOEP Hurricane Tabletop held in the Mineral Board Room, Natural Resources Building. Preparations have begun for the Exercise Design and Evaluation Course scheduled for August 16-20 to be held in Sulphur.



Sean Connelly - Jim Bridges - Terry Thompson

### LOEP WELCOMES NEW PERSONNEL

**Sean Connelly** – Assistant Training Officer. Resides in Baton Rouge.

**Jim Bridges** – Plans, Training and Exercises Division Chief. Relocating from Gulf Port, Mississippi, to Baton Rouge.

**Terry Thompson** – Public Information Officer. Resides in Lafayette.

**LaToya Dotson** – Operations Group Communications Operator.

**Chancellor Mills** – Operations Group Communications Operator.

### LOEP DISASTER RECOVERY DIVISION

#### **Pre-Planned Training and Meetings Scheduled for June 1999**

1. June 7-10, Austin, Texas. FEMA Region VI Partnership Workshop. (cancelled)
2. June 15, Plaquemines Parish. Mini DRO II training for local officials.
3. June 29-July 1, Jefferson Parish. DRO II training for parish officials.

**FMA Projects** – The FMA projects for Ouachita, Bossier and St. Tammany parishes have been started and funds are being requested. Other projects funded for this fiscal year are still in the planning stages and will soon be underway. The acquisition project in Bossier parish is almost complete and will be finished this summer. The structures have been purchased and the parish will be demolishing them soon.

**Environmental** – The environmental concerns arising from the tornado in the Shreveport area consisted of the disposal of solid waste from the destruction of homes in the area and wildlife impact on endangered species.

### MULTI-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP FORMED

The State Office of Emergency Preparedness has joined Attorney General Richard Ieyoub, Superintendent of Education Cecil Picard, the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Louisiana Community Policing Institute in developing and planning the upcoming Statewide Regional Team Training on Safe Schools. This training is the follow-up to the recent Safe School Summit that was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge. As a follow-up, the multi-agency partnership will provide hands-on training, education and application where law enforcement, schools and communities can work together to develop a strategic plan in response to school violence.



Beetle Bailey



Mort Walker

**DON'T FORGET SUNDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> IS FATHER'S DAY!**